

REMARKS

STATUS OF CLAIMS:

Claims 1-19 are pending and stand rejected.

By this Amendment, claims 1-7, 9-10 and 14-15 are amended and claims 8, 11-13 and 17-19 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Therefore, claims 1-7, 9-10 and 14-16 are now pending and under consideration.

No new matter is being presented by the claim amendments, accordingly, entry and approval of same are submitted to be proper and are respectfully requested.

ITEM 2: REJECTION OF CLAIM 1 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(e)

In the Action at page 2, item 2, claim 1 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Aroyan et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,163,313).

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

The subject matter of original claim 8 has been incorporated into claim 1 which now recites "a conductive film damage preventing element made of an elastic material to prevent damage, by an edge of the double-faced tape, to a remaining one of the conductive films which receive input pressure, is mounted on a movable board or the double-faced tape."

Aroyan et al. Reference

Aroyan et al. discloses "the cover sheet 210 is typically joined to the remainder of the touch screen 105 with an adhesive along its associated edges, or optionally, with an insulative adhesive frame 225 or the like. Additionally, an electrode 230 connects the conductive coating 220 of the cover sheet 210 via lead 235 to an appropriate external circuitry, such as the controller circuit 110." (See Aroyan et al. at column 11 lines 35-42 and also FIG. 5 at numerical reference 225 (i.e., the adhesive frame.)) However, it is clear from FIG. 5 of Aroyan et al. that a structure corresponding to the "conductive film damage preventing element" of the present invention recited in claim 1 is not shown and, furthermore, the disclosure of Aroyan et al. is silent with regard to "prevent[ing] damage, by an edge of the double-faced tape, to a remaining one of

the conductive films which receive input pressure ...," (as recited in claim 1).

Accordingly, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Aroyan et al. and is submitted to be allowable thereover.

ITEM 4: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 14-16 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §102(b)

In the Action at page 3, item 4, claims 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Jackson (U.S. Patent No. 4,931,782).

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

Claim 14 is directed to a touch panel and recites "a conductive film damage preventing element made of an elastic material to prevent damage, by an edge of the double-faced tape, to one of the transparent conductive films of a respective one of the pair of panels, which is a moving-side panel and receives input pressure, is mounted on the transparent board of the moving-side panel or the double-faced tape."

Jackson Reference

Jackson discloses "polyester adhesive coatings 44 and, alternatively, a sheet of polyester based adhesive 54. (See, for example, Jackson at column 6, lines 41-65 and column 8, line 65 to column 9, line 4, and also FIGS. 2 and 6 at numerical references 44 and 54.) However, it is clear from FIGS. 2 and 6 of Jackson that a structure corresponding to the "conductive film damage preventing element" of the prevent invention recited in claim 14 is not shown and, furthermore, the disclosure of Jackson is silent with regard to "prevent[ing] damage, by an edge of the double-faced tape, to one of the transparent conductive films of a respective one of the pair of panels..." (as recited in claim 14).

Accordingly, claim 14 patentably distinguishes over Jackson and is submitted to be allowable thereover.

Claims 15-16, which depend from claims 14, are submitted to be allowable over Jackson for at least the same reasons as claim 14, as well as for the additional recitations therein.

ITEM 6: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 1-4, 8-10 AND 14-16 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Action at pages 4 and 5, item 6, claims 1-4, 8-10 and 14-16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakanishi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,844,175) in view of Aroyan et al.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

As previously mentioned, claim 1 is directed to a touch panel and recites "a conductive film damage preventing element made of an elastic material to prevent damage, by an edge of the double-faced tape, to a remaining one of the conductive films which receive input pressure, is mounted on a movable board or the double-faced tape."

Nakanishi et al. Reference

In the Office Action at page 5, lines 4-6, the Examiner asserts that Nakanishi et al. teaches a double-faced tape (10) (see figures 1A, 1B, 4F, 7; column 1, lines 55-52; column 5, lines 1-3 and column 6, lines 17-19).

However, the disclosure of Nakanishi et al. is silent with regard to a structure corresponding to the "conductive film damage preventing element" of the present invention recited in claim 1 and, furthermore, Nakanishi et al. is silent with regard to "prevent[ing] damage, by an edge of the double-faced tape, to a remaining one of the conductive films which receive input pressure ...," (as recited in claim 1). This is because in FIGS 1A-1B, 2-3, 4A-4H, 5A-5G and 6-7 of Nakanishi et al., the adhesive layer 10 (i.e., corresponding to the double faced tape of the present invention recited in claim 1) is in direct contact with the transparent conductive film 3a (i.e., corresponding to the remaining one of the conductive films of the present invention recited in claim 1). Thus, a structure, which is made of an elastic material, to prevent damage to the remaining one of the conductive films by an edge of the double-faced tape is not shown by any of FIGS. 1A-1B, 2-3, 4A-4H, 5A-5G and 6-7. Furthermore, in FIG. 8 of Nakanishi et al., an insulative resist layer 9 is formed between the adhesive layer 10 and the transparent conductive film 3a, but Nakanishi et al. is silent regarding the insulative resist layer 9 being an elastic material and, moreover, the function of the insulative resist layer 9 is merely to cover the take-out electrodes 4. (See Nakanishi et al. at column 1, line 62 to column 2, line 3.)

Aroyan et al. Reference

Claim 1 is submitted to patentably distinguish over Aroyan et al. for the reasons mentioned with regard to item 2.

Accordingly, claim 1 patentably distinguishes over Nakanishi et al. in view of Aroyan et al. and is submitted to be allowable thereover.

Claim 2-4, 9-10 and 14-16

Claim 14 for reasons similar to those of claim 1, is also submitted to be allowable over Nakanishi et al. in view of Aroyan et al.

Claims 2-4, 9-10 and 15-16, which depend from claims 1 and 14, are submitted to be allowable over Nakanishi et al. in view of Aroyan et al. for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 14, as well as for the additional recitations therein.

Claim 8

Claim 8 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer and the subject matter thereof is incorporated into claim 1. Thus, the rejection of claim 8 is now moot.

ITEM 7: REJECTION OF CLAIM 5 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Action at page 5, item 7, claim 5 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aroyan et al. in view of Hino et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,168,910) or over Nakanishi et al. in view of Aroyan et al. in view of Hino et al.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

As previously mentioned, claim 1, from which claim 5 depends, is submitted to be allowable over Aroyan et al. or Nakanishi et al. in view of Aroyan et al. for the reasons set forth above.

Hino et al. Reference

It is submitted that the additional reference of Hino et al. does not overcome the deficiencies of the Aroyan et al. or Nakanishi et al. in view of Aroyan et al. because Hino et al. does not disclose or even suggest the "conductive film damage preventing element" (as recited

in claim 1). This is because, Hino et al., which is directed to a method for removing a decomposition residue of a material of a resin layer inside of holes formed in the resin layer of a printed board (see, for example, Hino et al. at column 3, lines 59-63), is relied on by the Examiner to teach the diameter of a laser spot, and, in particular, does not disclose or suggest anything related to double-faced tape or a structure of a touch panel.

Accordingly, claim 5, which depends from claim 1, is submitted to be allowable over Aroyan et al. in view of Hino et al. or Nakanishi et al. in view of Aroyan et al. in view of Hino et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 1, as well as for the additional recitations therein.

ITEM 8: REJECTION OF CLAIM 6 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Action at pages 5 and 6, item 8, claim 6 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aroyan et al. in view of Sukenori et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,943,106) or over Nakanishi et al. in view of Aroyan et al. and Sukenori et al.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

As previously mentioned, claim 1, from which claim 6 depends, is submitted to be allowable over Aroyan et al. or Nakanishi et al. in view of Aroyan et al. for the reasons set forth above.

Sukenori et al. Reference

It is submitted that the additional reference of Sukenori et al. does not overcome the deficiencies of the Aroyan et al. or Nakanishi et al. in view of Aroyan et al. because Sukenori et al. does not disclose or even suggest the "conductive film damage preventing element" (as recited in claim 1). This is because, Sukenori et al., which is directed to a liquid crystal display device and a manufacturing method thereof (see, for example, Sukenori et al. at column 2, lines 54-57), is relied on by the Examiner to teach the wavelength of a laser light for etching being more than 900nm, and, in particular, does not disclose or suggest anything related to double-faced tape or a structure of a touch panel.

Accordingly, claim 6, which depends from claim 1, is submitted to be allowable over Aroyan et al. in view of Sukenori et al. or Nakanishi et al. in view of Aroyan et al. and Sukenori et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 1, as well as for the additional recitations therein.

ITEM 9: REJECTION OF CLAIM 7 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Action at page 6, item 9, claim 7 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Aroyan et al. in view of Yamagishi et al. (U.S. Patent No. 5,349,155) or over Nakanishi et al. in view of Aroyan et al. and Yamagishi et al.

Reconsideration is respectfully requested.

As previously mentioned, claim 1, from which claim 7 depends, is submitted to be allowable over Aroyan et al. or Nakanishi et al. in view of Aroyan et al. for the reasons set forth above.

Yamagishi et al. Reference

It is submitted that the additional reference of Yamagishi et al. does not overcome the deficiencies of the Aroyan et al. or Nakanishi et al. in view of Aroyan et al. because Yamagishi et al. does not disclose or even suggest the "conductive film damage preventing element" (as recited in claim 1). This is because, Yamagishi et al., which is directed to insulating material for a thin film multi-layered wiring substrate (see, for example, Yamagishi et al. at column 3, lines 53-55), is relied on by the Examiner to teach the pulse width of a laser light for etching being 1 ns, and, in particular, does not disclose or suggest anything related to double-faced tape or the structure of a touch panel.

Accordingly, claim 7, which depends from claim 1, is submitted to be allowable over Aroyan et al. in view of Yamagishi et al. or Nakanishi et al. in view of Aroyan et al. and Yamagishi et al. for at least the same reasons as claim 1, as well as for the additional recitations therein.

ITEMS 10-12: REJECTION OF CLAIMS 11-13 AND 17-19 UNDER 35 U.S.C. §103(a)

In the Action at pages 6 and 7, item 10, claims 11-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakanishi et al. in view of Aroyan et al. and JP 8-329767.

In the Action at page 7, item 11, claims 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Nakanishi et al. in view of JP 8-329767.

In the Action at page 7, item 12, claims 17-19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Jackson in view of JP 8-329767.

Since claims 11-13 and 17-19 are canceled without prejudice or disclaimer, these rejections are now moot.

CONCLUSION

Claim 1-7, 9-10 and 14-16 patentably distinguish over the cited art taken singularly or in any proper combination for the above noted reason and are submitted to be allowable.

There being no further outstanding objections or rejections, it is submitted that the application is in condition for allowance. An early action to that effect is respectfully solicited.

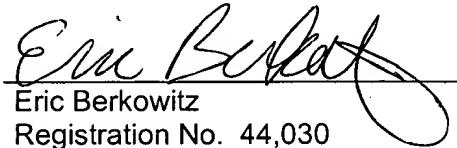
Finally, if there are any formal matters remaining after this response, the Examiner is requested to telephone the undersigned to attend to these matters.

If there are any additional fees associated with filing of this Amendment, please charge the same to our Deposit Account No. 19-3935.

Respectfully submitted,

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